



2019 Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas

TDI Division of Workers'
Compensation

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2019 Fatal Occupational Injuries in Texas

The data in this report is the latest available from the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (CFOI). The report is created by the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) in cooperation with BLS. DWC releases total fatal injury counts and descriptive data annually to provide information that helps employers, safety professionals, and policymakers identify occupational safety and health issues.

Key Findings

In 2019, in the private and public/governmental sectors, there were 608 fatal occupational injuries in Texas, a 25% increase from 488 in 2018. The incident rate of fatal occupational injuries in Texas was 4.7 per 100,000 full-time employees in 2019.

Private sector only employees represented 94% of the fatal occupational injuries with 573 incidents in 2019. The other 35 incidents involved public/governmental sector employees, an increase of one from 2018 (34).

Nationally, there were 5,333 fatal occupational injuries representing an incident rate of 3.5.

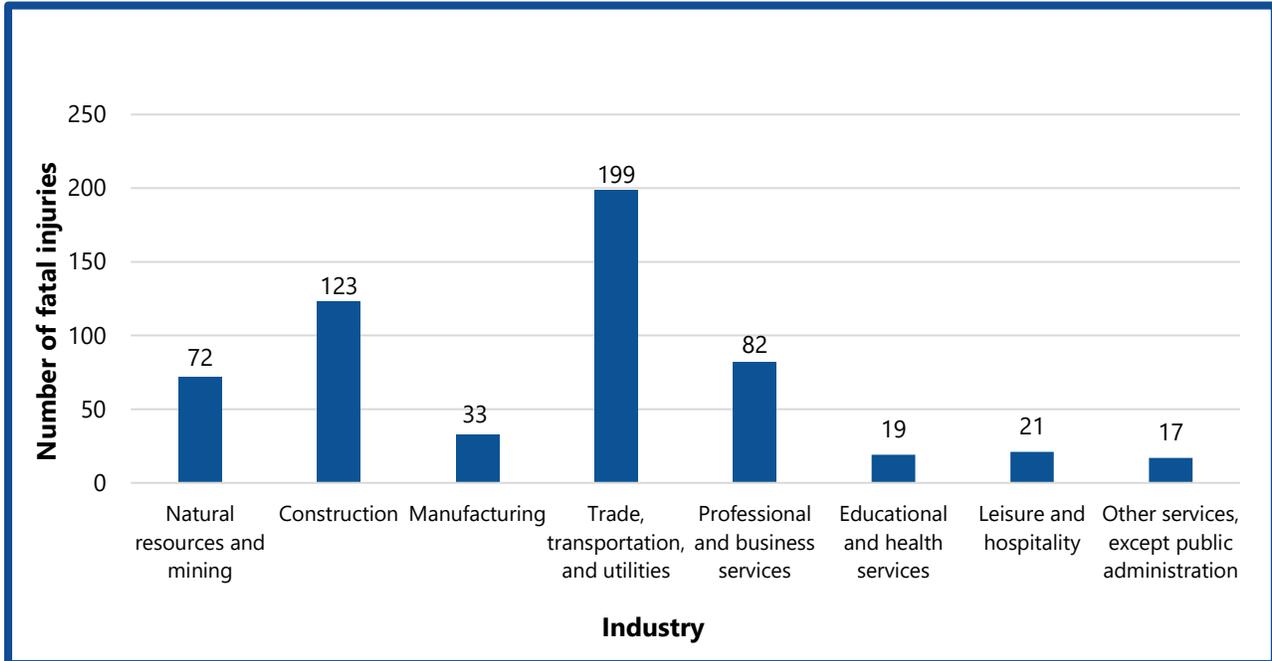
Workplace Characteristics

This report contains information about the industries and occupations of fatally injured employees. Industry information involves the type of business where an employee worked. Occupation information involves the type of work an employee did. For example, a transportation company employs managers and salespeople, as well as truck drivers. Transportation and material moving occupations are found in both goods-producing industries, as well as service-providing industries. This report presents both industry and occupational information to provide a more complete picture of the workplace characteristics of fatally injured employees.

Industries

Across both the public and private sectors, the industry with the highest number of fatal work injuries was trade, transportation, and utilities with 199 incidents, representing 33% of all incidents in Texas (see Chart 1). This was an increase in total number of incidents from 2018 (168). Twenty percent of fatal work injuries happened in the construction industry with 123 incidents. This was an increase in total number of incidents from 2018 (107).

**Chart 1. Fatal Work Injuries in Selected Industries, All Ownerships, Texas 2019
(608 total fatal injuries)**

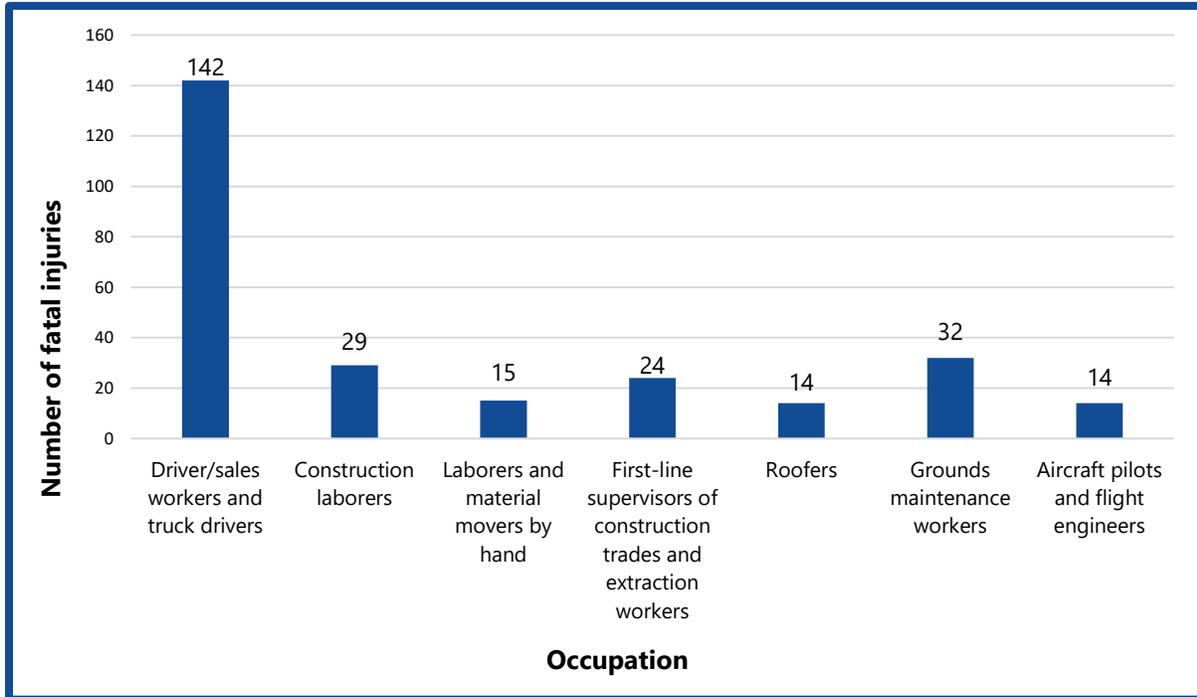


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2020

Occupations

Chart 2 shows that the occupation with the highest number of fatal work injuries was driver/sales workers and truck drivers with 142 incidents, representing 23% of all fatal work injuries. This was an increase in total number of incidents from 2018 (123). Incidents among construction laborers increased from 17 in 2018 to 32 incidents in 2019, representing 5% of all incidents. Laborers and material movers saw a 12% decrease in incidents from 17 in 2018 to 15 incidents in 2019.

Chart 2. Occupations with the Largest Number of Worker Fatal Injuries, All Ownerships, Texas 2019 (608 total fatal injuries)

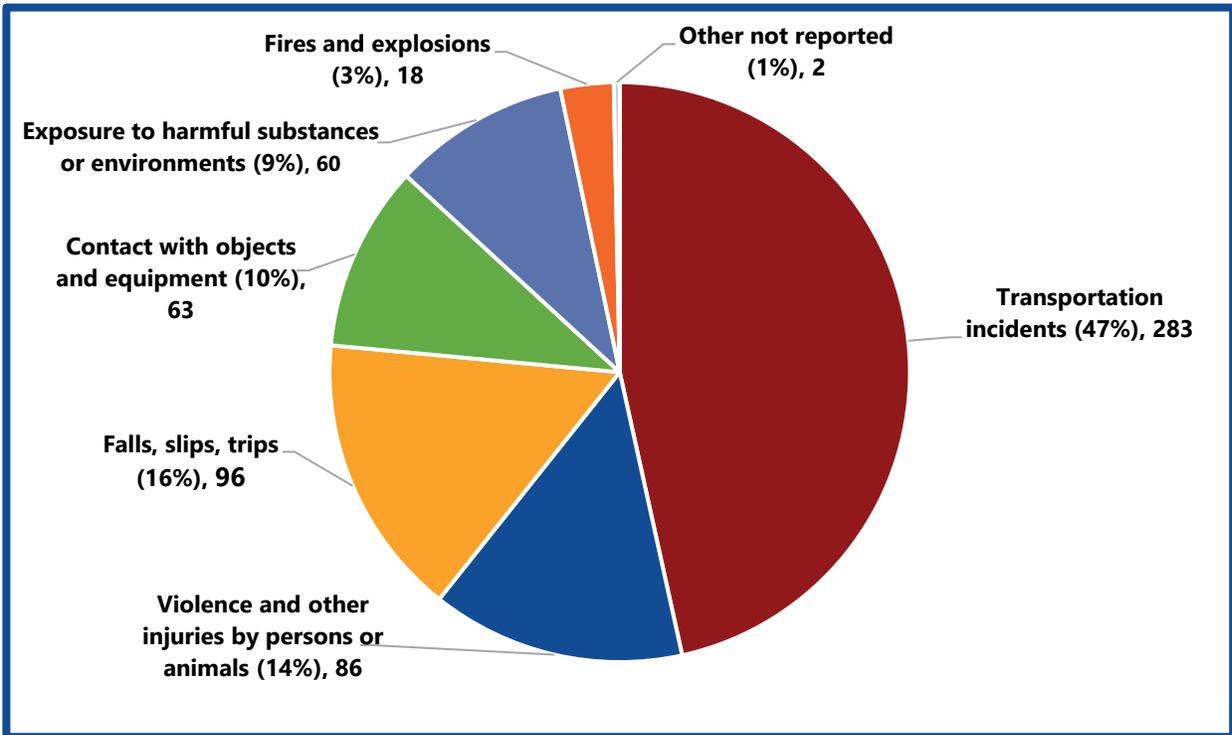


Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2020

Case Characteristics

The event or exposure with the highest number of fatal work injuries was transportation with 283 incidents, representing 47% of all incidents (see Chart 3). This was an increase in total number of incidents from 2018 (223). There were 96 incidents of falls, slips, and trips, which accounted for 16% of all incidents. This was an increase in the total number of incidents from 2018 (71). There were 86 incidents of violence and other injuries by persons or animals, which accounted for 14% of all incidents. This was an increase in the total number of incidents from 2018 (71).

**Chart 3. Workplace Fatal Injuries by Event or Exposure, All Ownerships, Texas 2019
(608 total fatal injuries)**



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, 2020

Fatalities by Industry

Goods-Producing Industries

Among the goods-producing industries in the private sector, the construction industry had the highest number of fatal injuries with 123, representing 22% of all private sector fatal occupational injuries (see Table 1). This was an increase in incidents from 2018 (107).

Service-Providing Industries

Among the service-providing industries in the private sector, the trade, transportation, and utilities industry had the highest number of fatal injuries with 195, representing 34% of all private sector fatal occupational injuries. This was an increase in incidents from 2018 (164). The industry subsector within trade, transportation, and utilities with the highest number of fatal injuries was transportation and warehousing with 115 incidents, accounting for 25% of all private industry incidents.

Government Industries

Of the 35 fatalities that involved governmental employees, 24 were employees in local government. Eleven of those in local government were in police protection.

Table 1. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Industry,¹ Texas 2018-2019

Industry	2018	2019
Private industry	454	573
Goods-producing	198	--
Natural resources and mining	73	72
Agriculture, forestry, fishing, and hunting	24	23
Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction ²	49	49
Oil and gas extraction	9	5
Support activities for mining	38	42
Construction	107	123
Heavy and civil engineering construction	21	21
Manufacturing	18	--
Service-providing	256	--
Trade, transportation, and utilities	164	195
Utilities	--	5
Wholesale trade	20	29
Retail trade	28	24
Transportation and warehousing	115	137
Truck transportation	89	91
Information	--	--
Financial activities	4	14
Real estate and rental leasing	3	10
Professional and business services	44	--
Professional, scientific, and technical services	13	13
Education and health services	12	--
Leisure and hospitality	15	--
Accommodation and food services	13	14
Food services and drinking places	11	11
Other services, except public administration	16	17
Repair and maintenance	15	12
Government³	34	35
Federal government	5	9

¹ CFOI has used several versions of the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) since 2003 to define industry. For complete information on the version of NAICS used this year, see the definitions page at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm. Cases where ownership is unknown are included in private industry counts. Cases classified as foreign government and other government are included in all government counts, but not displayed separately. Cases where industry is unknown are included in the service sector counts.

² Includes fatal injuries at all establishments categorized as Mining (Sector 21) in the North American Industry Classification System, including establishments not governed by the Mine Safety and Health Administration rules and reporting, such as those in Oil and Gas Extraction.

³ Includes fatal injuries to workers employed by federal, state, local, and foreign governmental organizations regardless of industry.

Industry	2018	2019
Postal service	--	3
State government	5	--
Local government	23	24
Educational services	6	3
Executive, legislative, and other government support	3	3
Police protection	8	11
Total	488	608

Fatalities by Occupations

Many occupations saw increases in the number of fatal occupational incidents from 2018 to 2019 (see Table 2). Construction and extraction had the largest increase in number of incidents from 105 in 2018 to 136 in 2019 and accounted for 22% of all incidents. Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance had the largest percent increase from 2018 (16) to 2019 (46), a 188% increase. Transportation and material moving increased from 174 incidents in 2018 to 202 in 2019. It accounted for 33% of all fatal work injuries.

Table 2. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Major Occupational Group,⁴ Texas 2018-2019

Major Occupational Group	2018	2019
Transportation and material moving	174	202
Construction and extraction	105	136
Installation, maintenance, and repair	47	42
Protective service	21	29
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	16	46
Production	16	34
Sales and related	24	31
Military specific occupations ⁵	3	4
Management	16	23
Farming, fishing, and forestry	16	15
Office and administrative support	6	9
Architecture and engineering	11	5
Healthcare practitioners and technical	7	3
Educational instruction and library occupations	6	3
Business and financial operations	--	3
Food preparation and serving	7	7
Personal care and service	3	1
Total	488	608

⁴ CFOI has used several versions of the Standard Occupation Classification (SOC) system since 2003 to define occupation. For more information on the version of SOC used this year, see the definitions page at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm.

⁵ Includes fatal injuries to people identified as resident armed forces regardless of individual occupation listed.

Case Characteristics

Case characteristics provide details of the fatal injuries experienced by employees. The total incident rate for each case characteristic category may not add up to the total incident rate, and the number of cases may not add up to 608, because of rounding and data from nonselected characteristics.

Event or Exposure

Transportation incidents continued to be the leading cause of fatal occupational injuries in Texas with 283 incidents in 2019 compared to 233 in 2018 (see Table 3). Transportation represents 47% of all incidents, a slight increase from 46% in 2018. Most categories within this event had increases from 2018. Roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle increased to 181 from 2018 (166). Nonroadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle increased from 13 incidents in 2018 to 27 in 2019, a 108% increase. Aircraft incidents increased from 10 in 2018 to 21 in 2019, a 110% increase.

Of the 181 roadway incidents that involved a motorized land vehicle, roadway collisions with other vehicles accounted for 123 incidents, or 20% of all fatalities. Roadway collisions with an object other than a vehicle accounted for 31 incidents, while roadway noncollisions accounted for 27 incidents.

Pedestrian vehicular incidents were up from 25 in 2018 to 45 incidents in 2019, an 80% increase. Nineteen pedestrians were struck by a vehicle in a nonroadway area, 10 more than in 2018, and a 90% increase.

Intentional injury by person accounted for 78 incidents. Homicides were up 40% from 40 in 2018 to 56 in 2019. There were 22 suicides, down from 30 in 2018.

The number of falls to a lower level increased by 49% from 2018. There were 79 incidents in 2019 accounting for 13% of all fatal occupational injuries. In 2018, there were 53 incidents, representing 11% of all fatal injuries.

**Table 3. Number of Fatal Occupational Injuries by Event or Exposure,⁶
Texas 2018-2019**

Event or Exposure	2018	2019
Violence and other injuries by persons or animals	71	86
Intentional injury by person	70	78
Homicides	40	56
Shooting by other person – intentional	36	49
Stabbing, cutting, slashing, piercing	3	4
Suicides	30	22
Animal and insect-related incidents	--	6
Transportation incidents	223	283
Aircraft incidents	10	21
Rail vehicle incidents	6	7
Pedestrian vehicular incident	25	45
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in work zone	--	7
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in roadway	8	11
Pedestrian struck by vehicle on side of road	4	7
Pedestrian struck by vehicle in nonroadway area	10	19
Roadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	166	181
Roadway collision with other vehicle	99	123
Roadway collision with object other than vehicle	44	31
Roadway noncollision incident	23	27
Nonroadway incident involving motorized land vehicle	13	27
Nonroadway noncollision incident	10	21
Fire or explosion	20	18
Explosion	16	9
Fall, slip, trip	71	96
Fall on same level	17	15
Fall on same level due to tripping	6	6
Fall to lower level	53	79
Other fall to lower level (from ladders, roofs, scaffolds, structural steel, trees, nonmoving vehicles, stairs)	39	66
Other fall to lower level less than 6 feet	10	11
Other fall to lower level 6 to 10 feet	4	11
Other fall to lower level 11 to 15 feet	6	13
Other fall to lower level 16 to 20 feet	4	7
Other fall to lower level 21 to 25 feet	5	4
Other fall to lower level 26 to 30 feet	3	4
Other fall to lower level more than 30 feet	4	6
Exposure to harmful substances or environments	43	60
Exposure to electricity	23	29

⁶ Based on the BLS Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System 2.01 implemented for 2011 data forward.

Event or Exposure	2018	2019
Exposure to temperature extremes	5	6
Exposure to other harmful substances	10	21
Nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol unintentional overdose	7	12
Inhalation of harmful substance	3	9
Contact with objects and equipment	58	63
Struck by object or equipment	47	49
Struck by powered vehicle nontransport	18	21
Struck by falling object or equipment	20	22
Caught in or compressed by equipment or objects	8	11
Caught in running equipment or machinery	8	7
Struck, caught, or crushed in collapsing structure, equipment, or material	3	3
Total	488	608

Demographics

Men accounted for 93% of total fatalities (568 incidents). Thirty-three percent of the total occupational fatal injuries for 2019 happened to employees over the age of 55 (203 incidents). Forty-five percent of the employees were White (non-Hispanic) (273), 40% were Hispanic or Latino (241), 10% were Black or African-American (non-Hispanic) (61), and 5% were Asian (non-Hispanic) (28). Eighty-eight percent of the fatal occupational injuries involved wage and salary employees (536 incidents) and the rest were self-employed (72).

The CFOI data tables are on the [TDI website](#). For more information about fatal occupational injuries, contact DWC at 512-804-4640 or cfoi@tdi.texas.gov.

Endnotes

In accordance with [BLS policies](#), individually identifiable data collected by the CFOI program is used exclusively for statistical purposes and is protected under the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2002 (CIPSEA). Data is collected under a pledge of confidentiality and requires BLS to prevent disclosure of identifying information of decedents. Disclosure of confidential information is a serious issue, a violation of CIPSEA, and a matter that BLS has addressed with new disclosure protections for the 2019 CFOI release. These disclosure protections have significant impacts on the data that is publishable for 2019 and have resulted in the suppression of some private sector numbers to protect the confidentiality of all employees in the private and public sectors.

CFOI fatal injury counts exclude illness-related deaths unless precipitated by an injury event.

Data for all years is revised and final.

See data definitions at www.bls.gov/iif/oshcfdef.htm.

Beginning with survey year 2011, the classification system used to code case characteristics and occupations was revised, which created a break in series. Case characteristics (nature, body part, source, and event) and many occupations for years after 2011 are not comparable to data for years before 2011.

A dash indicates data does not meet publication guidelines.

Source: BLS, U.S. Department of Labor, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, in cooperation with participating state agencies, December 2019.

DWC Resources

DWC provides various safety and health services to help reduce injuries and illnesses in the workplace, including:

- free safety and health consultations on Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations;
- regional and on-site safety training;
- free safety and health publications;
- free safety training DVD loans; and
- the Safety Violations Hotline.

For more information on these services, visit www.txsafetyatwork.com or call 800-252-7031, option 2. Employers that carry workers' compensation insurance in Texas can get accident prevention services from their insurance companies at no additional charge.



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